7.0 WILDFIRE MITIGATION STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION

The wildfire mitigation action items provide direction on specific activities that organizations and residents in Teton County can undertake to reduce risk and prevent loss from wildfire events. Each action item is followed by ideas for implementation which can be used by local entities to pursue strategies for implementation. For the following action items, the recommended lead organization (s) is in bold font.

7.1 Update County emergency services computer server, software, and link emergency services communications.

Ideas for implementation:
- Upgrade the County computer server and software supporting county emergency services. Coordinate procurement and common communications link with all County emergency services and cooperators. Explore procurement opportunities through FEMA/Homeland security grants and the Western States Fire Plan.
- Procure updated software for emergency response and planning. An example of this type of software is the "red zone" product.

Coordinating Organizations:	**Teton County Commissioners**
	Teton County Sheriff
	Teton County Fire District
Cooperators:	U.S. Forest Service
	Bureau of Land Management
	Idaho Department of Lands
Timeline:	2004-2005
Plan goals addressed:	Protect life and Property,
	Partnerships and Implementation,
	Emergency Services.
Cost Estimate:	$15-25,000

7.2 Integrate County Wide 911 dispatching with emergency services computer support and centralize emergency services dispatching.

Ideas for implementation:
- Coordinate procurement of upgraded computer server and software for assurance that upgrade equipment is compatible and capable for integration of a countywide 911 emergency services dispatch system. Coordinate with other Counties or municipalities who have a working all emergency 911 integrated systems for Teton County system best value. Coordinate with cooperators for centralization of dispatching. Coordinate

procurement with Mitigation recommendation #1 utilizing the same grant procedures.

Coordinating Organizations: **Teton County Commissioners**
             Teton County Sheriff
             Teton County Fire District

Cooperators: Idaho State Communications
             Idaho State Police
             Idaho Department of Lands
             U.S. Forest Service
             Bureau of Land Management

Plan goals addressed   Protect life and Property,
             Emergency services

Timeline: 2004-2005

Cost Estimate: $60,000-$75,000

7.3   Develop cooperative agreements and plan for emergency use of cooperator frequencies and repeaters. Develop procurement plan for updated and compatible FM frequency radios.

Ideas for implementation:
- Develop Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Caribou-Targhee National Forest and BLM. The MOU would address utilization of the Caribou-Targhee and BLM VHF FM Communication system as an emergency or back up system for Teton County. This system can provide County emergency services with communications to cooperators and each other should the county communications system malfunction or in areas that can only reach BLM and/or U.S. Forest Service repeaters. Procurement of VHF FM radios should be coordinated with cooperators assuring a compatible radio capable of narrow banding that can be used analog and upgraded to digital as needed.

Coordinating Organization: **Teton County Commissioners**
             Caribou-Targhee National Forest
             Teton County Sheriff
             Teton Count Fire District
             Teton County Disaster Services

Plan Goals Addressed: Protect life and Property,
             Partnerships and Implementation
             Emergency Services

Timeline: 1 year

Cost Estimate: Upgraded compatible VHF FM
             Radios: $25,000 (10 at $2,500 each)

7.4 Prioritize needs for the Teton County Fire District

Ideas for implementation:
- Utilizing the fire department's Needs Assessment, establish priorities that will allow the department to receive the best value. Emphasis and priorities in training, PPE, communications, infrastructure, and apparatus should be included.
- Coordinate prioritized Teton County Fire District needs with the BLM Rural Fire Assistance Program.

Coordinating Organization:	**Teton County Fire Comm.**
	Teton County Fire District
	Bureau of Land Management
Plan Goals addressed:	Protect Life and Property
	Emergency Services
	Partnerships
Timeline:	2004
Cost Estimate:	Variable, up to $500K for
	Communications, Apparatus
	Infrastructure improvements

7.5 Homeowners and developers need to recognize the importance of and create defensible space

Ideas for implementation:
- Provide information about defensible space to extreme risk developments. Provide developments with information and direction on how to become a recognized "firewise community". Encourage future developments to incorporate firewise community guidelines in planning efforts.
- Identify County or community areas for slash/brush disposal, chipping and burning.
- Creation of defensible space will require removal of wildfire fuels, developments that combine fuel reduction projects with cooperators or adjacent development will realize a cost savings when combining these projects.

Coordinating Organization:	**Teton County Fire District**
	Caribou-Targhee National Forest
	Bureau of Land Management
Plan goals addressed:	Protect Life and Property
	Partnerships and Implementation
	Improve Natural Systems
	Public Awareness
	Emergency Services
Timeline:	Start in 2004, continuous
Cost Estimate:	No costs for information

Vegetation removal costs
will vary per acre and type.
Estimate $2000 per day.

7.6 Development of wildfire emergency action plans for extreme and high risk subdivisions, homes, developments and businesses in Teton County.

Ideas for implementation:
- Coordinate the development of emergency action plans with the creation of defensible space for developments, homeowners, and subdivisions.
- Evaluate County businesses that are in need of an emergency action plan and establish protocol. Utilize emergency action plan checklist or requirements that are already established and modify to Teton County needs.

Coordinating Organizations:	**Teton County Disaster Services**
	Teton County Fire District
	Teton County Sheriff
Plan Goals Addressed:	Protect Life and Property
	Emergency Services
	Public Awareness
	Partnerships.
Timeline:	2-4 years
Cost Estimate:	$300 per plan

7.7 Reduction of wildfire fuels accumulation in and adjacent to high and extreme risk areas on private, State and Federal lands.

Ideas for implementation:
- Coordinate with cooperators for fuels reduction projects on Federal and State lands and request prioritization of areas defined as extreme or high risk (map 4).
- Assist cooperators with public information addressing the need for these projects.
- Coordinate with private land owners for fuel reduction on CRP lands. Review hazardous fuels reduction grant procedures through Idaho Department of Lands and RC&D.

Coordinating organizations:	**Teton County Fire District**
	Caribou-Targhee National Forest
	Idaho Dept. of Lands
	Bureau of Land Management

Plan Goals Addressed:	Emergency Services
	Protect Life and Property
	Natural Systems
	Partnership and Implementation
Timeline	2 years for CRP
	4 -10 years for Federal lands
Cost Estimate:	No additional cost to County for State or Federal lands

7.8 Ingress/egress constraints in developments and to private homes constructed prior to current standards needs improvement.

Ideas for Implementation:
- Identify key ingress/egress bottleneck areas and develop plan for control of ingress/egress at these points in community emergency action plan.
- Provide information to residents that identify ingress/egress constraints for the areas they live in and assist in developing a best value plan to alleviate some of these problems.

Coordinating organizations:	**Teton County Sheriff**
	Teton County Fire District
	Residents of areas with restricted ingress/egress
	County Commissioners
Plan goals addressed:	Protect Life and Property
	Emergency Services
	Public Awareness
	Partnerships and Implementation
Timeline	2 years for plan
	2-10 years for improvements
Cost Estimate:	No estimate available at this time